

REMARKS

In a Final Office Action mailed on January 31, 2005, an objection was made to the reference to the prior application; an objection was made to the numbering of the claims; claims 28-31, 33-41 and 44-46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Feitzelmayer; and claims 32, 42 and 43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Feitzelmayer in view of Bahder.

The Office Action also states, "in view of the Applicant's amendment, the objection to the Abstract has been repeated." Final Office Action, 5. However, the Office Action fails to formally set forth an objection to the Abstract or further elaborate on why the objection to the Abstract has been repeated. Because the amendment to the Abstract, presented in the last Reply, addresses the previous objection to the Abstract, Applicant submits that the objection to the Abstract has been overcome. Therefore, it is assumed for purposes of this Reply that the above-recited language on page 5 of the Office Action is a misstatement, and the objection to the Abstract has been withdrawn. If this is not the case, then Applicant requests the Examiner to specifically point out the alleged problem with the Abstract.

The claims have been amended to correct the dual instances of claim 32.

Regarding the objection to the reference to the prior application, Applicant points out that even before the amendment that is contained herein, a specific reference was made to the prior application, in that the reference points out the specific relationship of the instant application to the prior application, as well as the prior application's serial number. M.P.E.P. §201.11.III.A. To comply with the latest requirement and further expedite prosecution of the application, Applicant has amended the reference to indicate that the prior application is still pending and also to indicate the filing date of the prior application. Thus, for at least this reason, withdrawal of the corresponding objection is requested.

Regarding the § 102 rejections, Applicant points out that the insulating material 24' of Feitzelmayer fails to prevent thermal damage to any of the depicted electrical conductors 1, 2, 3 or 4 during welding of a cable segment to a housing. More specifically, referring to Fig. 3 of Feitzelmayer, Feitzelmayer shows the insulating material 24' as not being located near potential welding heat sources, but rather, Feitzelmayer depicts the insulating material 24' as potentially being located away from the seams 18, 19, 25 and 26. Thus, the insulating material 24' does not

thermally insulate the wires from most intense heat that is generated by the welding of the seams, i.e., the regions of the wires where the wires pass under the seams. If the thermal energy that is generated by the welding is intense enough to damage the wires, the regions of the wires closest to the seams (i.e., the regions not covered by the insulating material 24') would be damaged. Therefore, there is no teaching or even a suggestion in Feitzelmayer that the insulating material 24' provides thermal insulation to protect the wires from thermal when a cable segment is welded to a housing. Instead, it is clear from Feitzelmayer that the insulating material 24' is an *electrically* insulating material that is positioned to electrically insulate the otherwise exposed wires from the electrically conductive housing in the regions where the conductors extend between the cables and the ceramic insert 24.

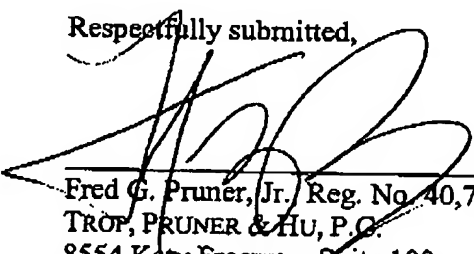
Therefore, for at least the reason that Feitzelmayer fails to teach or even suggest the thermal insulator of independent claim 28 or the act of preventing thermal damage of independent claim 38, withdrawal of the §§ 102 and 103 rejections of claims 28-46 is requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of the § 102 rejections and a favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance are requested. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-1504 (SHL.0231C1US)

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 31, 2005


Fred G. Pruner, Jr., Reg. No. 40,779
TROP, PRUNER & HU, P.C.
8554 Katy Freeway, Suite 100
Houston, Texas 77024
(713) 468-8880 [Phone]
(713) 468-8883 [Fax]